



# WASHOE COUNTY

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## STAFF REPORT

BOARD MEETING DATE: March 22, 2016

**DATE:** February 29, 2016  
**TO:** Board of County Commissioners  
**FROM:** Scott Sosebee, Interim Court Administrator, Reno Justice Court  
325-6543, [ssosebee@washoecounty.us](mailto:ssosebee@washoecounty.us)

**THROUGH:** Scott Pearson, Judge Reno Justice Court

**SUBJECT:** Recommendation to acknowledge a grant award and general fund allocation, to develop the Sober24 program, from the Nevada Office of Traffic Safety to the Reno Justice Court [\$45,000.00 / 20% in-kind match required], retroactive from February 11, 2016 to September 30, 2016; and direct the Comptroller to make the appropriate budget adjustments. (All Commission Districts)

### SUMMARY

In January 2016, the Reno Justice Court applied to the Office of Traffic Safety (OTS) to receive funding to establish the Sober24 program. The Sober24 program will provide twice daily alcohol monitoring and twice weekly drug testing for persons convicted of impaired driving and other related offenses. On February 11, 2016, the Reno Justice Court received notification that the sum of \$45,000.00 had been approved with a 20% match requirement. The 20% match requirement will be satisfied by an in-kind match.

**Washoe County's Strategic Objective supported by this item:** Safe, secure and healthy communities.

### PREVIOUS ACTION

No previous action has been taken on the Sober24 program or its related grant award.

### BACKGROUND

The Reno Justice Court, in cooperation with Washoe County Sheriff's Department, Social Services, and the Department of Alternative Sentencing, is developing the Sober24 program to provide twice daily alcohol monitoring and twice weekly drug testing for persons convicted of impaired driving and other related offenses. Such monitoring is quick, simple, and inexpensive, and allows employees to maintain jobs and other family responsibilities, thereby avoiding many of the difficulties which can otherwise so easily arise, and may indeed stimulate further use of intoxicants.

AGENDA ITEM # 6B

Sober24 is closely modeled on the 24/7 program first developed in South Dakota. The program performs twice daily PBT testing and randomized twice-weekly drug tests on all participants. Failure of any test, or failure to appear when mandated, is cause for swift and certain return to jail, and to appear before the judge within 24 hours. Mandated, frequent testing, with guaranteed and immediate consequences for any infraction have been seen to significantly reduce DUI recidivism in states where the program has been introduced.

Washoe County currently employs various systems to monitor DUI offenders, but none have yet proven as successful as the 24/7 program. Current methods allow offenders to pick their own times when to test, during office hours, so they can monitor their drinking and pass the tests after their Blood Alcohol Content has declined. Like 24/7, Sober24 will test regularly every 12 hours, rendering it almost impossible for participants to cheat the system.

National statistics indicate that approximately one-third of all first-time DUI offenders will have a second DUI offense, and that DUI Offenders are more likely than non-DUI offenders to be involved in a future fatal car crash (National Highway Traffic Safety Administration).

On February, 11 2016, Reno Justice Court was approved for funding of \$45,000.00 to develop the Sober24 program, in conjunction with the Washoe County Sheriff's Department, Social Services, and Department of Alternative Sentencing.

### **GRANT AWARD SUMMARY**

**Project/Program Name:** Sober24

**Scope of the Project:** The scope of the Sober24 program is to develop and implement a program that provides twice daily alcohol monitoring and twice weekly drug testing for persons convicted of impaired driving and other related offenses.

**Benefit to Washoe County Residents:** The Sober24 program will reduce recidivism of DUI offenses and DUI fatalities. To date, traditional DUI offense intervention efforts that include a combination of education and sanctions report only a modest 7% - 9% reduction in recidivism rates for future impaired driving offenses. By comparison, the 2013 - RAND Corporation study in the American Journal of Public Health (funded by National Institute on Drug Abuse) reported that South Dakota saw a 12% reduction in recidivism for DUI offenses and a 9% reduction in recidivism for domestic violence offenses, following adoption of their 24/7 Sobriety Program. Since implementing the 24/7 program, South Dakota has experienced a 12% drop in the rate of DUI recidivism and over 33% reduction in DUI fatalities. The Sober24 program is modeled on South Dakota's 24/7 program. A number of other states have implemented programs similar to that in South Dakota, including Montana, Washington, North Dakota, and Wyoming. Each of these has experienced similar reductions in recidivism and crimes related to drug and alcohol abuse.

**On-Going Program Support:** On-going support of this program will be funded through program fees paid by participants. Sober24 has an internal income stream from program fees. Fees include \$1 per PBT test per participant (\$2 per participant, per day) and \$4 per urinalysis test (\$8 per participant per week).

**Award Amount:** \$45,000.00

**Grant Period:** February 11, 2016 – September 30, 2016

**Funding Source:** Office of Traffic Safety, 2016 Traffic Safety Grant

**Pass through From:** N/A

**CFDA Number:** N/A

**Grant ID Number:** TS-2016-RJC-00130

**Match Amount and Type:** 20% in-kind match will be met by paying for program personnel support costs.

**Sub-Awards and Contracts:** N/A

**FISCAL IMPACT**

Should the board accept this grant award and approve these amendments, the adopted budget will be increased by \$45,000.00 in both revenues and expenditures in the following accounts:

<b>Cost Object</b>	<b>G/L Account</b>	<b>Amount</b>
Revenue:		
IO # TBD	432100 – State Grant	\$ 45,000.00
Expenditures:		
IO # TBD	701130 – Pooled Positions	\$ 45,000.00

The 20% in-kind match will be met by paying for program personnel support costs. It is estimated that personnel costs for the first year will total \$131,773. The balance of the budget for program personnel will be supplied from program fees and the Department of Alternative Sentencing.

**RECOMMENDATION**

It is recommended that the Board of County Commissioners acknowledge a grant award and general fund allocation, to develop the Sober24 program, from the Nevada Office of Traffic Safety to the Reno Justice Court [\$45,000.00 / 20% in-kind match required], retroactive from February 11, 2016 to September 30, 2016; and direct the Comptroller to make the appropriate budget adjustments. (All Commission Districts)

**POSSIBLE MOTION**

Should the Board agree with staff's recommendation, a possible motion would be:  
"Move to acknowledge a grant award and general fund allocation, from the Nevada Office of Traffic Safety to the Reno Justice Court [\$45,000.00 / 20% in-kind match required], retroactive from February 11, 2016 to September 30, 2016; and direct the Comptroller to make the appropriate budget adjustments."

cc: John Slaughter, County Manager  
Joey Orduna Hastings, Assistant County Manager  
Keith Munro, District Attorney  
Mark Mathers, Budget Manager  
Cathy Hill, Comptroller  
Gabrielle Enfield, Grants Administrator